

Interview Summary	Application No. 09/870,258	Applicant(s) KRANCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Khanh Dang	Art Unit 2111	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Khanh Dang. (3) ____.
- (2) Mr. Scott (Atty. of Record). (4) ____.

Date of Interview: 4/30/2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1, 12, and 27-29.

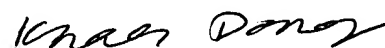
Identification of prior art discussed: Lin et al..

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Mr. Scott presented an overview of the after-final proposed amendments and explained to the Examiner the difference between the proposed amended claims and Lin et al. The proposed after-final amendments will be fully considered upon filing of a RCE.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.



Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner*

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Dang, Khanh

From: mscott@conleyrose.com
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 11:20 AM
T : Dang, Khanh
Subject: Agenda for upcoming Examiner Interview for case 09/870,258



Examiner Interview Discussion ...

Examiner Dang:

Attached is a document titled "Examiner Interview Discussion Material" which contains a set of proposed claim amendments. My proposed agenda for our interview is as follows:

- * Notation of proposed amendment to allowed claim 27 (and->or to ensure only one is required to infringe in light of recent Fed Cir. case law);
- * Brief discussion of proposed amendments to address 112 rejections of object-to claims (the information exchanged "about software" need not necessarily mean software executing at the time of the information is exchanged thus the claims have been amended to read "software executable on ..." to address the concern);
- * Brief discussion of the primary reference Lin (while information may be transferred docking station to notebook, Lin's docking station does not independently determine whether docking of the two devices should take place);
- * Discussion of proposed amendments to independent claims 1,12 and 35 in relation to Lin (highlighting the docking station's independent determination of whether the devices should dock); and
- * Discussion of claim 29 in relation to Lin, as well as the proposed amendments to Lin.

I look forward to hearing from you .

Mark

Mark E. Scott
Patent Attorney
Conley Rose P.C.
600 Travis, Suite 7100
Houston, Texas 77002
DD 713-238-8049
Fax 713-238-8008

Privileged Attorney-Client Communication.
<<Examiner Interview Discussion Material.pdf>>

EXAMINER INTERVIEW DISCUSSION MATERIAL

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
 - a notebook computer having an expansion bus;
 - a docking station having an expansion bus; and
 - a communication pathway coupling the notebook computer and the docking station;wherein the notebook computer determines whether the notebook computer expansion bus should be coupled to the docking station expansion bus by communicating ~~communicates~~ across the communication pathway ~~to determine whether the docking station is compatible with the notebook computer,~~ and wherein the docking station determines whether the docking station expansion bus should be coupled to the notebook computer expansion bus by communication ~~communicates~~ across the communication pathway ~~to determine whether the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station, each communication prior to electrically coupling the expansion bus of the notebook computer to the expansion bus of the docking station.~~
2. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 1 wherein said communication pathway further comprises a serial communication pathway.
3. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the serial communication pathway further comprises an Inter-Integrated Circuit (I^2C) bus.
4. (Currently Amended) The computer system as described in claim 1 wherein the notebook computer further comprises:
 - a microprocessor;
 - a system main memory;
 - a first bridge logic device coupling said microprocessor and system main memory;

a second bridge logic device coupled to the first bridge logic device by way of a primary expansion bus;

a notebook docking connector coupled to the second bridge logic device by way of the expansion bus of the notebook computer, the expansion bus being a secondary expansion bus;

an input/output device coupled to the second bridge logic device by way of a secondary expansion bus, and wherein said input/output device is configured to communicate across the communication pathway to determine whether the notebook computer expansion bus should be coupled to the docking station expansion bus~~the docking station is compatible with the notebook computer~~; and

wherein said communication pathway is a notebook computer serial bus coupled between the docking connector and the input/output device.

5. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 4 wherein the notebook computer serial bus further comprises an Inter-Integrated Circuit (I²C) bus.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system as defined in claim 4 wherein said docking station further comprises:

a docking station docking connector;

a bus bridge coupled to the docking station docking connector, wherein said bus bridge bridges the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to an expansion bus of the docking station;

a docking station serial bus coupled to the docking station docking connector;

a microcontroller coupled to the docking station serial bus, and wherein said microcontroller is configured to communicate across the communication pathway to determine whether the docking station expansion bus should be coupled to the notebook computer expansion bus~~the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station~~.

7. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 6 wherein the serial communication pathway further comprises an Inter-Integrated Circuit (I²C) bus.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer system as defined in claim 6 further comprising:

a read only memory device (ROM) coupled to the second bridge logic device of said notebook computer;

a serial electrically programmable read only memory device (EPROM) coupled to the docking station serial bus;

wherein the input/output device of said notebook computer is further adapted to read information from the serial EPROM across the docking station serial bus as part of determining whether the docking station is compatible with the notebook computer; and

wherein the microcontroller of the docking station is further adapted to read information from said notebook computer ROM across the notebook computer serial bus as part of determining whether the docking station expansion bus should be coupled to the notebook computer expansion bus~~the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station.~~

9. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 4 wherein the notebook computer further comprises:

said notebook computer serial bus having a plurality of conductors;

said secondary expansion bus having a plurality of conductors;

a plurality of electrically controlled switches coupled one each between the docking connector and each of the plurality of conductors of the serial bus and the secondary expansion bus; and

said input/output device having a plurality of digital output signals coupled to the plurality of electrically controlled switches, said output signals configured to selectively activate the plurality of electrically controlled switches.

10. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 9 wherein the input/output device is configured to activate the digital output signals coupled to the electrically controlled switches of the serial bus to allow the notebook computer and the docking station to communicate when determining whether the notebook computer and the docking station are compatible.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer system as defined in claim 9 wherein the input/output device is configured to activate the digital output signals coupled to the electrically controlled switches of the secondary expansion bus after a determination by both the notebook computer and the docking station that their respective expansion buses should be coupled together~~that the notebook computer and docking station are compatible.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A method of docking a notebook computer to a docking station, the method comprising:

coupling the notebook computer to the docking station;

transferring information about software ~~of~~ executable on the docking station to the notebook computer;

transferring information about software ~~of~~ executable on the notebook computer to the docking station;

determining by the notebook computer whether the notebook computer and the docking station are sufficiently compatible to couple their expansion buses based on the information, and determining by the docking station whether the notebook computer and the docking station are sufficiently compatible to couple their expansion buses based on the information; and if both the notebook computer and the docking station agree to at least partial compatibility,

electrically coupling a secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to a bus bridge in the docking station.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of docking a notebook computer to a docking station, the method comprising:

coupling the notebook computer to the docking station;

transferring information about software executable on the docking station to the notebook computer by

~~The method as defined in claim 12 wherein transferring information between the notebook computer and the docking station further comprises:~~

establishing a serial communication pathway between the notebook computer and the docking station; and

transferring a read only memory (ROM) date of the docking station across the serial communication pathway to the notebook computer; ~~and~~

transferring information about software executable on the notebook computer to the docking station by transferring a ROM date of the notebook computer across the serial communication pathway to the docking station;

determining whether the notebook computer and the docking station are compatible based on the information; and if both the notebook computer and the docking station agree to at least partial compatibility

electrically coupling a secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to a bus bridge in the docking station.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 13 wherein establishing the serial communication pathway further comprises closing a plurality of electrically controlled switches coupling the serial communication pathway between the notebook computer and the docking station.

15. (Original) The method as defined in claim 13 wherein transferring information across the serial communication pathway further comprises transferring information across an Inter-Integrated Circuit (I²C) bus.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of docking a notebook computer to a docking station, the method comprising:

coupling the notebook computer to the docking station;

transferring information about software executable on the docking station to the notebook computer;

transferring information about software executable on the notebook computer to the docking station;

determining whether the notebook computer and the docking station are compatible based on the information by

~~The method as defined in claim 12 wherein determining whether the notebook computer and the docking station are compatible further comprises:~~

executing a program in the notebook computer which program determines whether the ROM date of the docking station is compatible with the notebook computer;

executing a program in the docking station which determines whether ROM date of the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station; and

communicating a message by said docking station to said notebook computer, the message being one of approval and disapproval of electrically coupling the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the bus bridge in the docking station;

electrically coupling a secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to a bus bridge in the docking station if both the notebook computer and the docking station agree to at least partial compatibility.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein executing the program in the notebook computer further comprises comparing the ROM date of the docking station to a table containing information about a plurality of docking stations.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein executing the program in the docking station further comprises comparing the ROM date of the notebook computer to a table containing information about a plurality of notebook computers.

19. (Original) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining whether software in said docking station enables maximum functionality with the notebook computer; and if not,
notifying a computer system user of a need to upgrade the docking station software.

20. (Original) The method as defined in claim 12, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining whether software in the notebook computer enables maximum functionality with the docking station; and if not,
notifying a computer system user of a need to upgrade the notebook computer software.

21. (Original) The method as defined in claim 20, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining whether software in said docking station enables maximum functionality with the notebook computer; and if not,
notifying a computer system user of a need to upgrade the docking station software.

22. (Original) The method as defined in claim 21, wherein notifying the computer system user further comprises sending a message across a serial communication pathway to notify the computer system user.

23. (Original) The method as defined in claim 12 wherein electrically coupling the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the bus bridge in the docking station further comprises closing a plurality of electrically controlled switches coupling the secondary expansion bus of the notebook to the bus bridge of the docking station.

24.-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) A docking station operable to dock to a notebook computer, the docking station comprising:

- a docking station docking connector;
- a bus bridge coupled to the docking station docking connector, wherein said bus bridge bridges a secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to an expansion bus of the docking station;
- a docking station serial bus coupled to the docking station docking connector; and
- a microcontroller coupled to the docking station serial bus, said microcontroller configured to determine the compatibility of the notebook computer by reading at least one of a read only memory (ROM) date ~~and~~ or a product code of the notebook over the docking station serial bus.

28. (Previously Presented) The docking station as defined in claim 27 wherein the microcontroller is further configured to communicate a vote to the notebook computer regarding whether to couple the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the expansion bus of the docking station.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a notebook computer being docked to a docking station, the method comprising:

- coupling a serial bus to the docking station;
- transferring information about the docking station across the serial bus to the notebook computer;
- receiving a vote from the docking station being one a vote to couple a secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the docking station ~~and~~ or a

vote not to couple the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the docking station;
determining the compatibility of the notebook computer based on the transferred information; and if the notebook computer is compatible with the docking station and the docking station votes to couple,
coupling the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the docking station.

30. (Original) The method as defined in claim 29 wherein coupling the serial bus to the docking station further comprises:

coupling the serial bus of the notebook computer to a plurality of electrically controlled switches, which switches selectively couple the serial bus of the notebook to a serial bus of the docking station;
activating the plurality of electrically controlled switches; by
asserting an output signal of a device within the notebook computer.

31. (Original) The method as defined in claim 30 wherein asserting an output signal of a device within the notebook computer further comprises asserting a general purpose digital output signal of a Super Input/Output controller.

32. (Original) The method as defined in claim 29 wherein coupling the secondary expansion bus of the notebook computer to the docking station further comprises:

coupling bus conductors of the secondary expansion bus to a plurality of electrically controlled switches, which switches selectively couple the secondary expansion bus to the docking station;
activating the plurality of electrically controlled switches; by
asserting an output signal of a device within the notebook computer.

33. (Original) The method as defined in claim 32 wherein asserting an output signal of a device within the notebook computer further comprises asserting a general purpose digital output signal of a Super Input/Output controller.

34. (Original) The method as defined in claim 29 further comprising generating a message for a computer system user if said docking station requires a software update.

35. (Original) A method of operating a docking station for docking with a notebook computer, the method comprising:

transferring information about the notebook computer across a communication pathway;

determining by the docking station the compatibility of the docking station with the notebook computer based on the information; and, based on that determination,

sending a message ~~across said communication pathway from the docking station~~ to the notebook computer indicating one of the docking station's approval or disapproval of further electrically coupling the docking station to the notebook computer.

36. (Original) The method as defined in claim 35 further comprising sending a message across the communication pathway which invokes a message to the notebook computer user indicating the need to upgrade software of the notebook computer.

37. (Original) The method as defined in claim 36 wherein sending the message across the communication pathway further comprises sending the message across an Inter-Integrated Circuit (I²C) bus.